

**City of Trinidad  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
2015 Master Plan**

## **Preface**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Master Plan provides a framework to guide the City Council and City staff in the development of a parks and recreation system in the City of Trinidad. The Plan includes recommendations on and prioritization of specific projects that the City may undertake to implement this framework. The plan is not intended to limit the city exclusively to the specific projects and programs listed in the plan nor to their timing. It is intended instead that should opportunities arise (i.e. specific parcels of land become available or grant funding is available) which further the objectives of this plan, the city may choose to pursue those opportunities.

The funding of the recommendations contained in this plan was not considered at this time. The City Council will, through its budget process, determine the appropriate combination of existing city funds, growth impact fees, grant funds and general obligation bonds or tax levies.

Amendments to the plan can be considered annually, and a thorough review of Parks and Recreation Plans should be done every five to six years to ensure that the plan remains current and that it reflects the community's changing needs.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

A parks and recreation system needs to be multifaceted. Some recreational needs require a quiet, serene setting, while others must provide the infrastructure necessary for large gatherings. Some activities need a specialized setting, such as a golf course, and some are best left in a natural setting.

To address this broad range of recreational needs and desires, the City of Trinidad relies on its Parks and Boulevards Department. While Trinidad has always had traditional parks and recreation facilities that offer amenities such as baseball fields, basketball courts, and even a children's fishing pond, the City has recently added many modern facilities including a skate park, disc golf course and an ever expanding trail system. Together, all of these items make the City's park and recreation diverse and unique.

Trinidad is located along the historic Santa Fe Trail and has been the center of activity within Southeast Colorado for many years. Ranching first brought many settlers to the area in part because of Trinidad's strategic location proximate to the rail lines heading over Raton Pass. It was coal, however, which became the region's primary industry in subsequent years. Trinidad is now in the process of diversifying its economy to improve its livability, integrating its magnificent open space with the historic infrastructure and embracing its emerging creative industries.

Trinidad is the most southerly Colorado city along Interstate 25 and is centrally located between Denver and Albuquerque. A Visitor's Center near City Hall and the River Walk draw many visitors throughout the year. In addition to the traditional parks and recreation system, Trinidad's history has created a wealth of attractions for visitors and locals alike. Trinidad presently has four museums that showcase history, art and local archaeology. In addition, there are numerous galleries and even a regional theater company. Trinidad is also located in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, and has great access to both State and National recreation areas. Many opportunities for hunting, fishing and hiking can be found within an hour's travel from Trinidad.

Trinidad Lake State Park is located three miles west of Trinidad, nestled in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The park contains 2,500 acres and offers a wide variety of activities. Ten miles of trails wind around the lake, and the 800-acre lake offers plenty of opportunities for fishing, boating, and other water sports. The San Isabel National Forest is located along the northwesterly boundary of Las Animas County. The national forest contains over one million acres and is home to many different animals including elk, mule deer, black bear, bighorn sheep, and wild turkey. Trinidad is also located within a short drive of some popular skiing destinations including Monarch, Wolf Creek, Taos, Red River and Angel Fire.

## 1.1 Purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Trinidad adopted a Home Rule Charter in 1993. Pursuant to Section 8.6 of that document, a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee was established. The committee is to be comprised of seven (7) members to be appointed by City Council. The committee is

charged with annually creating a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This master plan is the result of a cooperative effort between citizens of Trinidad, the City Council, City Staff and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Trinidad and the surrounding area will continue to change and evolve as the economy diversifies, and this in turn will put a greater demand on the existing facilities. It is important that our parks and recreation facilities keep pace with the community's needs. This plan is to be used as a guide for meeting both present needs and to help anticipate the future.

## **1.2 Goals and Objectives**

The following goals and objectives were developed based upon the existing parks and recreation systems found throughout Trinidad and the surrounding area, outreach surveys of the general public, the input of the Parks and Boulevards Department and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

The objective of this plan is to ensure that the elements defined herein recognize Trinidad's diversity with a mind toward protecting the City's past efforts and planning for its future recreational needs. These elements should also work to preserve the character of the single family residential neighborhoods; actively protect the natural resources and open spaces; offer an attractive and vital pedestrian-oriented city center; provide a network of parks, trails, open spaces and recreational facilities; and promote partnership with citizens and governments throughout the region.

Based on the above objectives, the goals set forth in this Master Plan are as follows:

- Support a parks and recreation system that serves the community by addressing immediate and short-term needs of existing parks, providing for long-term planning within the parks system, and ensuring that recreational facilities, programs and opportunities are accessible to all ages within the community.
- Explore and establish funding mechanisms for maintaining and upgrading existing facilities to a prescribed standard.
- Support the orderly development and operation of existing park land and support the acquisition of future park lands while preserving and protecting the natural resources found throughout the community.
- Review the working relationship among primary users and make sure that all stakeholders contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of parks and recreation facilities.
- Promote community interest and involvement in the acquisition, development and operation of the park and recreation system. This would include providing opportunities for volunteers and organizations to serve as "Friends of the Parks and Recreation Facilities".

## 2 NEEDS ANALYSIS

### 2.1 Trinidad Demographics

According to the 2000 census, the population of Trinidad was 9,078 people with 3,701 households, as shown on Table 1. The median age was 37.6 years of age, and the average household size was 2.36 persons. By the year 2010, the population of Trinidad was 9,078 people, with 3,701 households. The average household size was 2.36 persons with a median age of 38.9 years.

**Table 1-Demographics**

<b>I. Population and Household Trends 2000-2010</b>						
<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>2000</b>		<b>2010</b>		<b>Change 1990-2000</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Total Population	9,078		9,096		18	0.27%
Households	3701		3774		73	1.95%
Average HH size	2.36		2.31		-.05	-2.1%
Families	2,334		2,274		-60	-2.5%
Median Age	38.9		???			%
<b>II. Population by Age 2000-2010</b>						
<b>Population by Age</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Change 2000-2010</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Under 5 years	588	6%	588	6%	47	8%
5 to 24 years	2,522	28%	2,522	28%	77	3%
25 to 44 years	2,199	24%	2,199	24%	80	4%
45 to 64 years	2,052	23%	2,052	23%	422	21%
65 years and over	1,717	19%	1,717	19%	-128	-7%
Males	4,363	48%	4,363	48%	297	7%
Females	4,715	52%	4,715	52%	201	4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

For the purposes of this master plan, the projected growth of Trinidad was based upon an average growth rate of 0%. This exponential projection was done to illustrate an order of magnitude to which the potential population may be by the year 2020.

The statistics discussed to this point have focused on the population of the City of Trinidad. However, the City also receives numerous tourists, many of whom use the park facilities. Trinidad is also the commercial and economic center of Las Animas County in addition to being the County Seat. Many families from around the County also avail themselves of the park and recreation facilities that are available in the City. City staff estimates that 25-30% of the participants in recreation programs are from outside of the

city limits.

This non-resident use does provide some benefits though the exact effect on the park and recreation system is tough to quantify. Their numbers are therefore not included in the level of service calculations, though their impact should continue to be monitored so as to make adjustments for future planning consideration.

## **2.2 Park Classifications**

Not all park facilities are the same. Some parks are small, open spaces while others may contain specialized facilities such as playground equipment or a memorial. Still others contain a large combination of facilities. To better identify and compare parks within the larger system, a classification system was created as follows:

### ***Mini Park***

A mini park is the smallest park classification. These parks are often located in isolated areas, including landscaped areas within industrial or commercial zones and scenic overlooks. Typically these parks are between 1500 square feet to 2 acres.

Mini parks are often oriented toward active uses such as playgrounds, tennis courts, horseshoes and play fields. Passive uses, such as picnic areas, walking trails, and bird watching are also essential elements to the mini park system.

### ***Neighborhood Park***

Neighborhood parks are the most common element in the parks and recreation system. They are developed for both active and passive activities, and are generally for the residents within the service area.

The National Recreation and Parks Association recommends the neighborhood park to be between 5 to 10 acres in size. Due to Trinidad's smaller size and rural location, a size from 2 to 5 acres is the size recommended for Trinidad.

A primary reason for residents to go to a park is to have a pleasant outdoor experience. Therefore, neighborhood parks should be easily accessible and have aesthetic qualities that make the park enjoyable on every trip. Small, undesirable, leftover parcels within neighborhoods should be avoided.

There should be an even distribution of neighborhood parks throughout the city of Trinidad whenever possible.

### ***Community Park***

Community parks are the largest classification, ranging in size from 10 acres and up. These parks have a broader service area, and have a wider range of both active and passive activities. Community parks allow for group activities and allow for recreational opportunities that are not feasible in mini parks and neighborhood parks.

### ***Trails and Linear Park***

The trails and linear parks include open space, wildlife corridors, sensitive areas

(wetlands, steep slopes, flood plains, etc.), arroyos and stream corridors, and streetscapes. These create a network of open space throughout Trinidad and connect the community to its natural surroundings. The Purgatoire River should form the backbone of the overall trail system. Public access, such as trails and overlooks, should continue to be provided within and/or adjacent to these natural systems to enhance the public's access to Trinidad's natural resources while creating a balance between the desire for public access and the protection of the natural systems.

Since these facilities are often irregular in nature and can be expanded upon as opportunities arise, no size standard exists for this classification.

### ***Special Use Parks***

These parks cover a wide range of activities that are specific to that particular park. They can be small in size, such as tennis courts, or can be large such as Trinidad Municipal Golf Course, Monument Lake and Trinidad Lake State Park. Due to many variables, no size standard exists for this classification.

### **Summary of Park Classification**

Shown in Table 2 below, each park classification is shown along with the general size ranges and the area to be served by each type.

**Table 2-Park Classifications**

<b>Park Type</b>	<b>Size Range</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Key Feature</b>
Mini Park	1,500 sf to 2 acres	1/4-mile radius	Located within neighborhoods. Picnic area, open space, front on one or more streets
Neighborhood Park	2 acres to 5 acres	½-mile radius	Easily accessible to neighborhood population, picnic area (pavilion if possible), open space, playground, basketball, multi-use courts.
Community Park	5 acres plus	2 mile radius	Recreation center, Softball/baseball fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, swimming pool, parking lot, restrooms, natural area, connection to trail system.
Trails and Linear Parks	No applicable standard	Varies	Built or natural corridors, such as utility rights-of-way, link other components of the park and recreation system.
Special Use	No applicable standard	Varies	Located within community.

### ***Recreation Facilities***

Recreation facilities should be linked to the trails system, as well as public and civic facilities, local neighborhoods, and schools. Outdoor and indoor recreational activities should primarily be provided at existing facilities. Recreational facilities can be stand-alone, but are often located within neighborhood or community parks and further enhance the overall aesthetics of those parks.

These facilities should be upgraded, whenever the opportunity and feasibility allows, meeting the highest quality practice and competitive playing standards and requirements for all age groups, skill level, and recreational interests on a year-round basis. Sustainable practices should be used in developing recreation facilities whenever possible.

### ***Recreation Programs***

A convenient, organized and easily accessible system of recreation programs should be provided for all age and income groups as well as those with physical and/or mental disability within the community.

## **2.3 Level of Service - Park System**

Based upon the park classifications shown above, a tabulation of each park is shown in Table 3. A level of service is also calculated for each park classification and for the entire park system. The level of service is a ratio of a park's area or the number of recreational facilities to the population. This ratio is based on one thousand citizens. For example, if a community has 10,000 citizens, and 10 acres of park area, the level of service is 1.0, or 1 acre per 1,000 citizens.

Level of service estimates allows a community to have a relative measure of its services in comparison to other communities. It is also a useful tool to help in anticipating the future needs of a community.



**Table 3-Existing Level of Service**

\* To be developed in the near future

PARK TYPE/FACILITY NAME	TOTAL ACRES	DEVELOPED ACRES	UNDEVELOPED ACRES	NON-CITY PERSONNEL CONTROLLED/ MAINTAINED
<b>MINI PARK</b>				
Victoria Square	0.48	0.48		
Ninth & Portland	0.47	0.47		
Miner's Memorial Park	0.13	0.13		
City Hall / C&S Train	0.34	0.34		
Pine & Willow Street Intersection	0.13	0.13		
Welcome Center	0.05	0.05		
Public Library	0.14	0.14		
<b>Mini Park Total</b>				
LOS (2000 census)	0.43	0.43		
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARK</b>				
Kit Carson Park	5.70	5.70		
Cimino Park	2.00	2.00*		
Los Ninos	3.43	3.43		
<b>Neighborhood Park Total</b>				
LOS (2000 census)	2.10	1.23	0.87	
<b>COMMUNITY PARK</b>				
Central Park	14.93	10.93		4.00
Boulevard Addition Nature Park		86.40		
Southside Park	51.37	28.31	23.06	
<b>Community Park Total</b>				
LOS (2000 census)	7.30	4.32	2.54	0.44
<b>TRAIL AND LINEAR PARK</b>				
Purgatoire River Walk System	4.85	4.85		
				1.42
Alta Ave. & Colorado Ave. ROW	1.18	1.18		
Downtown Plaza	N/A			1.42
Santa Fe Trail Sidewalk	0.23	0.23		
<b>Trail and Linear Park Total</b>				
LOS (2000 census)	0.85	0.69		0.16
LOS (2000 census)	0.09	0.09	0.00	0.00
<b>PARKS TOTAL</b>				
LOS (2000 census)	10.76	6.75	3.41	0.75

The level of service shown in Table 3 shows that Trinidad has an overall park area of 97.72 acres with a population of 9,078 people, which calculates to a overall level of service of 10.76. It should be noted that Monument Lake, containing 360 acres, North Lake, containing 840 acres and the Municipal Golf Course, containing 84.24 acres, were

not considered at this time for these calculations, since these parks are special use facilities that are currently leased to outside entities. Total developed park area totals are - total acres, with a level of service of -. Developed community parks contain 39.24 acres, with a level of service of 4.32, and developed neighborhood and mini-parks contain 14.99 acres, with a level of service of 1.65.

## 2.4 Desired Level of Service - Park System

Now that we have calculated the existing level of service, the next step is to recommend a desired level of service. A report was prepared in 2003 by RPI Consulting Inc, in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), titled "State of Colorado Small Community Park and Recreation Planning Standards". This report makes recommendations for park requirements for small communities that have a population of roughly 10,000 residents or less. Review of the most recent data available indicates that DOLA standards have not significantly changed in recent years.

The standards contained in this report were intended to specifically address the unique needs of smaller communities. This standard is intended to be a guide only and not as an absolute. The method offered in the report is to have a single park dedication standard of 14 acres per 1,000 citizens. Rather than using a park's size, the recommended areas are based upon recreation activities. The summary of recommended park size is shown below in Table 4.

**Table 4-DOLA Standards for Parks<sup>1</sup>**

Facility Category	Total Acres per 1,000 Citizens
Sports Fields (soccer, multi-use, baseball, football)	4.4
Courts (tennis, basketball, volleyball)	0.3
Outdoor Recreation (skate park, BMX, paved & dirt trails)	8.5
Leisure (playgrounds, picnic, general park land)	0.8
Other Recreational Facilities (swimming pool, hockey, outdoor events venue)	1.5

Based on a comparison of Table 3 and Table 4, Trinidad's present level of service of is 24% below the DOLA standards.

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<sup>1</sup>RPI Consulting, Inc. State of Colorado Small Community Park and Recreation Planning Standards, pg 5



## 2.5 Level of Service - Park Facilities

Within each developed park are facilities, which give each park its own characteristics. Some parks may only contain single picnic areas or playground equipment, while other parks may contain a wide assortment of facilities.

Shown below in Table 5 are standards recommended to the City of Trinidad for its park facilities based upon a combination of the standards as reported in the 2003 DOLA report, community input and present levels of service.

**Table 5-Standards for Parks Facilities<sup>1</sup>**

Facility Category	Park system Facility	Recommended Level of Service
Sports Fields	Soccer / Multi-Use Field	0.95
	Ball Field / Baseball, Softball	0.61
Courts	Tennis Court	0.97
	Basketball Court	0.91
	Volleyball Court	0.13
Outdoor Recreation	Small Skate park (7000 sq. ft. footprint)	0.16
	Full-Sized Skate park (17,000+ sq. ft. footprint)	0.06
	BMX Track (Standard ABA Certified)	0.16
	Paved Multi-Use Trail (per mile)	1.04
	Dirt/Gravel Multi-Use Trail (per mile)	2.33
Leisure	Playgrounds (per 3200 sq. ft. of fully developed area)	0.16
	Family Picnic Area	6.25
	Group Picnic Area (with shelter)	0.36
	Park Bench	7.69
Other Recreational Facilities	Swimming Pool (outdoor)	0.12
	Ice Hockey Rink (full-sized, refrigerated, covered)	0.10
	Outdoor Events Venue (per acre)	0.42

<sup>1</sup>RPI Consulting, Inc. State of Colorado Small Community Park and Recreation Planning Standards, pg 15

## 2.6 Current Level of Service - Park Facilities

Table 6 lists an inventory of the present facilities located within the Trinidad Parks system. The level of service calculations shown in Table 6 are based on the 2010 census bureau figures.

**Table 6-Current Level of Service**

ACTIVITY/FACILITY	EXISTING UNITS	EXISTING OWNERSHIP	CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE
Baseball/Softball Field (adult)	3	(2) CITY (1) TSJC/THS Lease	0.3
Baseball/Softball Field (youth)	4	CITY /TSJC	0.4
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	4	CITY	0.4
Basketball Court (Indoor)	1	CITY	???
Soccer Field /Multi-Use Field	3	CITY	0.3
Playground	8	CITY	0.9
Recreation Center	1	CITY	0.1
Swimming Pool	1	CITY	0.1
Paved Trails (miles)	2.0	CITY	0.2
Skate Park	1	CITY	0.1
Tennis Courts	2	TSJC	0.2
Picnic table	35	CITY	3.9
Group Picnic Area (w/Shelter)	0	CITY	0.0
Bench	31	CITY	3.4

## 2.7 Meeting Future Needs

Helping to identify areas of need in the future is one of the objectives of the Master Plan. To assist in this process, the following tables show future needs based on the recommended levels of service. This is to help allow for ample lead in time to prepare for the fiscal considerations of implementation and ownership of future parks and park facilities.

Table 7 shows future needs based on the projected city growth from Table 1, and using the recommended level of service as shown in Table 5, extended to the years 2020 and 2030.

**Table 7-Future Needs Based on Recommended Level of Service**

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	DOLA GUIDELINES		EXISTING UNITS	FUTURE NEEDS BASED UPON THE 2003 DOLA REPORT RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF SERVICE					
	UNITS PER POPULATION per DOLA GUIDELINES	LEVEL OF SERVICE		UNITS REQUIRED BASED ON 2000 POP.	CURRENT EXCESS/ (DEFICIT)	UNITS REQUIRED FOR 2010 POP.	2010 E/(D)	UNITS REQUIRE D FOR 2020 POP.	2020 E/(D)
Baseball/Softball Field	1 per 1,640	0.61	7	6	1	7	0	8	(1)
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	1 per 1,100	0.91	4	8	(4)	10	(6)	12	(8)
Soccer Field /Multi-Use Field	1 per 1,050	0.95	3	9	(6)	10	(7)	12	(9)
Playground	1 per 6,270	0.16	8	1	7	2	6	2	6
Recreation Center	(none given)	(none given)	1						
Swimming Pool	1 per 8,250	0.12	0.12	1	(0)	1	(0)	2	(1)
Paved Trails (miles)	1 per 960	1.04	4.0	9.4	(5.4)	11.3	(7.3)	13.5	(9.5)
Skate Park	1 per 6,410	0.16	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Tennis Courts	1 per 1,030	0.97	2	9	(7)	11	(9)	13	(11)
Picnic table	1 per 160	6.25	35	57	(22)	68	(33)	81	(46)
Group Picnic Area (w/Shelter)	1 per 2,780	0.36	0	3	(3)	4	(4)	5	(5)
Bench	1 per 130	7.69	31	70	(39)	84	(53)	100	(69)

Table 8 shows future needs based on the same projected growth from Table 1, but this time showing the current level of service, as shown in Table 6, extended to the years 2010 and 2020.

**Table 8-Future Needs Based on Current Level of Service**

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	EXISTING UNITS	CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE	FUTURE NEEDS BASED ON CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE			
			2020 POPULATION	2020 EXCESS/(DEFICIT)	2030 POPULATION	2030 EXCESS/ (DEFICIT)
Baseball/Softball Field (adult)	3	0.3	4	(1)	4	(1)
Baseball/Softball Field (youth)	4	0.4	5	(1)	6	(2)
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	3	0.3	4	(1)	4	(1)
Soccer Field /Multi-Use Field	3	0.3	4	(1)	4	(1)
Playground	8	0.9	10	(2)	11	(3)
Recreation Center	1	0.1	1	(0)	1	(0)
Paved Trails (miles)	4.0	0.4	4.8	(0.8)	5.7	(1.7)
Skate Park	1	0.1	1	(0)	1	(0)
Picnic table	35	3.9	42	(7)	50	(15)
Pavilion / Picnic shelter	0	0.0	0	(0)	0	(0)
Bench	31	3.4	37	(6)	44	(13)

It should be noted that even for facilities for which the recommended and the existing levels of service do not differ, projected growth would necessitate additional facilities by 2020 and 2030.

By using the recommended DOLA level of service, by the year 2020, if the population grows as projected, the city will need the following:

- (7) new soccer fields
- (6) new basketball courts
- (7.3) miles of new trails

By simply maintaining the existing level of service, by the year 2020, if the population grows as projected, the city will need the following:

- (1) new adult baseball/softball field
- (1) new youth baseball/softball field
- (1) new soccer field
- (2) new playgrounds
- (0.8) miles of new trails

## **2.8 Conclusions**

One item of importance is that some of the needs of the park and park facilities can be met by using facilities not owned or maintained by the City of Trinidad. These include County owned, State owned, school district facilities and home owner/property owner associations.

Mutually beneficial agreements with said outside agencies could be pursued to both meet some of the goals of the parks department and to help with the fiscal responsibility of the City of Trinidad.

The levels of service calculations shown hereon are a subjective item. These are goals based on ideal conditions, but it should be left to elected officials to determine the community's actual needs and the fiscal reality of implementing this plan. This plan is meant to state recreational ambitions and objectives and to serve as a blueprint to work from for future development. It is also understood that any proposed increased level of service is a multiyear vision that is subject to the financial capacity of the City of Trinidad.

Some new facilities that should be planned and developed are Handball and racquetball courts, proper tennis courts, horseshoe pits, Frisbee court, Pickle ball and mountain & urban biking trails. Additionally, the addition of bike racks in the parks.

The design and the subsequent maintenance of a park and the related facilities are interrelated components of a park system. Both items play an important role when upgrading an existing park or developing a new park. The following recommendations are given to help assure that the City's Park system will meet the community's needs.

The design of a park should start by first determining the facility's intent. Whether the park is a mini-park to service the immediate neighborhood or a community park for the benefit of the entire city, the forethought of what that particular park is intended to accomplish goes into the planning process. Other steps are outlined below to help determine that minimum standards are being met to continue meeting Trinidad's growing needs.

### **3.1 Park Land**

The City of Trinidad Subdivision Regulations have recently been revised and updated by City Staff. The subdivision regulations contain minimum standards for park land dedication in Section 14-2 B. (1), which recommends 1,000 square feet of park space per dwelling unit. Therefore, as per 2000 Census figures in Table 1, based on an average dwelling unit (ie. household) containing 2.36 persons, this would equate to a level of service of 9.73 acres per 1,000 persons. The recommendation made in the 2003 DOLA report as shown in Section 2.4 herein is 14 acres per 1,000 citizens, while the present level of service is 10.26 acres per 1,000 citizens. The minimum guidelines should be reviewed periodically to be certain that they are meeting the level of service that is desired by the community.

The subdivision regulations also contain certain standards including the amount of each park type to be dedicated based on the subdivision size. The subdivision regulations also provide for cash payment in lieu of dedication of land, as well as private park land in lieu of dedication of land. These alternatives allow for a certain amount of flexibility in the options available to both the City of Trinidad and the developer while continuing to provide the best park system possible.

### **3.2 Park Location**

When a new park is proposed, the location is an important factor. To ensure that new parks are beneficial to the community, certain considerations can be taken into account when designing a park.

One factor is to determine if a certain park type is needed in that specific location. There would be no need to put 2 large neighborhood parks within a block of each other. Nor would it be useful to put parks too far apart and have entire neighborhoods with no park accessibility.

Access to a park is another factor that influences site selection. Parks should have enough street frontages or a dedicated parking area for all users to be able to readily access the park. It should also be easily accessible for the proper maintenance of the park.

The City's subdivision regulations also contain standards concerning parks that are encumbered by easements, drainages, detention ponds and other similar items. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommends adopting these standards for all future park dedications.

### **3.3 Trees, Shrubs and Turf**

One of the main aspects of a park is the vegetation including trees, shrubs and turf included within a park. Vegetation generally comprise the greater part of the surface area of a park, and will therefore make up a majority of the upkeep. These are also the areas where preventative maintenance and planning can be some of the most beneficial.

Trees provide many benefits to urban environments, some of which include providing sound buffers, reducing utility bills, reducing flooding, cleaning the air and providing wildlife habitats. To help address the present status of the trees within the community a Tree Board has been established by the City Council and is currently working to:

- Develop and update as necessary a long-range plan for the City's green infrastructure.
- Review, in cooperation with the Superintendent of Parks and Boulevards and the City Planner, annual plans for the City's urban forestry program.
- Advise the Mayor, City Council, City Manager and various departments on matters concerning the betterment of trees and related resources.
- Coordinate and/or conduct special projects for the betterment of the City's green infrastructure.

One method of continuing to provide for the park system is to make sure the park surface is in harmony with Trinidad's environment. If the park is to have turf, appropriate types of grasses and the soils that the grass is laid upon should be appropriate and native to the Trinidad area. Grasses that grow well in one area of the country, or even in another of Colorado, may not be the best suited to Trinidad. The same can be said for trees and shrubs that are to be placed in a park. Ensuring that trees and shrubs are native and / or compatible with the region can help to reduce the amount of water and fertilizer that needs to be used and the maintenance required to keep up the park.

The area immediately around trees and shrubs is another consideration. To reduce the amount of edging that is required, mulch can be used. By placing mulch with a distinct border, maintenance crews are able to mow directly up to the edge of the mulch, thus reducing the amount of time spent with trimmers. This also will help to minimize the damage to trees that can be caused by equipment. This is one method that can minimize the man hours spent maintaining a park.

### **3.4 Park Facilities**

Once the park site has been selected, the next phase of the process is to determine what facilities to place within the park. Each park will be different, based on its size and the intent of the park. However, some standards could be adhered to so that each park, while



unique, will not create undue burden on the Park and Recreation Department.

Playground equipment is a common feature in most parks. Standardizing playground equipment is a method that could be employed to reduce maintenance and to create a citywide identity. When a new park or new playground is created, or when aged equipment is to be replaced, the City should consider choosing state of the art items that are easy to maintain, and offer a variety of options for the users. Wooden equipment should be avoided, as should any sharp angular surfaces.

The surface upon which the equipment sits should be made with safety in mind. Since most playgrounds require children to be at great heights relative to their size, a soft surfacing should be used. The sub-surface should be also designed to allow water drainage while discouraging weeds.

Restrooms are another important consideration in furnishing a park. An adequate number of restrooms should be supplied based upon the park's size and general use. The restrooms should be easily accessible, yet not distracting to the overall park experience. Restrooms should be designed based upon the size of the park it serves, and with ease of maintenance in mind. Design should also attempt to have as little impact on the surroundings as feasible. Solar and wind power are some alternatives for restroom design that can help to minimize the impact on the parks system. Handicap accessibility is another consideration in the design and placement of restrooms.

### **3.5 Park Accessibility**

Access to parks for persons with disabilities is a factor in the design of a park and the park facilities. Some considerations to help make the park and recreation system accessible to persons with disabilities are shown below.

To promote wheelchair access walkway slopes should be designed to be less than 5% except in extreme circumstances. Handrails should be provided on hard surfaces that exceed 5%. Also hard surface access to play equipment, restrooms and certain picnic areas should be provided. This ensures that handicapped persons can have an enjoyable park and recreation experience.

The 1992 American with Disabilities Act is a law that applies to private businesses and local and state governments that covers many situations concerning the disabled. Due to the complexities of this law, a person with knowledge of this law should be consulted to ensure that new park construction or park rehabilitation meets or exceeds the requirements set forth in the ADA.

### **3.6 Park Appearance**

One important aspect of the park system is the appearance of a park. An attractive park will lead to a more enjoyable experience. The appearance of our parks is also a reflection of the values of our community. Taking pride in our parks shows a commitment to bettering the quality of life within the community.



A unique, signature identity or logo can help to distinguish the parks and park facilities within Trinidad. By using this logo on park benches, tables, lighting and signage, the City can provide a brand for and sense of continuity and style to the park system. The logo used on the City of Trinidad vehicles and stationary is a prime example of this. The lighting style used throughout the Downtown area could also be extended into the park system. Choosing one or two paint styles will also help to give the parks system a definite identity, while reducing the number of colors of paints required to be on hand for the maintenance staff. Standardizing park facilities will help to reduce the repair and maintenance requirements for the park system.

Trees and shrubs are a primary part of most parks. Rather than placing trees randomly throughout a park or spreading them evenly over the entire park, placing them in clusters, either around the edges of a park or in irregular alignments, creates a meadow effect for the park.

Equipment is often necessary for a park including storage sheds, bear proof trash dumpsters and light poles. However these objects should be placed in inconspicuous areas when possible. Painting these items a dark color has been shown to soften their appearance, making them blend into the background.

### **3.7 Park Maintenance**

Labor is a primary cost within the park system. It should then follow that efficiency is a very important consideration when looking into park maintenance. Methods to increase efficiency include using less labor-intensive methods, environmental friendly fertilizers (like humanure) reducing travel time, and alternatives to City controlled maintenance. The increased productivity will give positive returns that are of significant benefit to the City. Some suggestions are shown below.

As discussed above, by adding mulch around trees and shrubs, mowing can take place right up to the edge of the mulch, reducing the amount of time spent trimming. Mulch also creates an attractive border, which can be used to tie together trees and shrubs that are near each other. Mulch or pea gravel could also be used around picnic areas.

Adding a properly designed sprinkler system to parks is another labor saving process. If combined with a timer system, watering the parks can be done with much less labor, while watering can be done at times that are better suited to watering, such as evenings or early morning. Drip systems added to the system in conjunction with the mulch mentioned above could also produce a significant savings in the amount of water used by adding water directly where it is needed.

An adequate number of staff is recommended to be available for the proper maintenance of the park system. In addition to continuing to meet the present requirements of the present park space, as Trinidad and the associated park system continues to grow, the amount of personnel and equipment available should also be expanded to meet the increased demand. The addition of security and video surveillance systems should also be considered.

The equipment used to maintain the park system is very important. Having proper equipment will not only save time and energy but make the work safer for the personnel whose job it is to maintain the parks. Since the tasks required in maintaining a park are so many, a wide variety of tools and equipment should be at hand for the workers. Having the proper quantity and type of equipment can also save the amount of labor required to complete the tasks.

The safe use and maintenance of the equipment is also of paramount concern. Implementing training standards and a rigid maintenance schedule for the equipment will not only foster a safe working environment, but can save money in the long run by reducing down time related to injuries and equipment failures.

As mentioned above, standardizing of equipment and facilities will not only create a signature look to the Trinidad Park system but will help to reduce maintenance time and costs. By having similar equipment, the inventory of spare parts can all be standardized, repairs will be made easier due to the personnel being familiar with the equipment, and the interchanging of parts can be done with minimal effort.

Due in part to the drought in recent years and other factors, wildlife and human encounters have seemed to be increasing. Bears can be found rummaging through trash containers. One method of deterring the bears is to provide bear proof containers at City parks. This would offer some benefits including providing a certain safety factor to the parks. The bears would less likely be found in the vicinity of the parks, including the citizens and children who use the parks, if they are unable to get into the trashcans. Another factor would be the decrease in the amount of time and manpower spent by the City Police and Department of Wildlife personnel due to decreased human/bear contact. This may also help to inform the public to the benefits of bear proof containers to both the wildlife and the community as a whole, and therefore lead to others including these types of containers in their own backyard.

Alternatives may also be explored to assist with the maintenance of parks. One method is to have Property Owner's Association or Home Owner's Association (POA/HOA) to maintain open space and parks. Details of this type of agreement are covered in the City's subdivision regulations in Section 14-2 D.

An agreement with the school systems in the Trinidad area is another method that could help to meet a portion of the parks needs. Using school parks can help to meet the needs of a neighborhood that is lacking a park, especially in fully developed areas of the community. User agreements could include scheduled public use, even during school times, and standards and responsibility for maintenance.

The City of Trinidad should also continue to encourage the use volunteers as a method of assisting with park maintenance. Due to the limited resources available for creating new park facilities or the upgrading of existing facilities, volunteers are a means of providing additional personnel to expedite the process. The skate park and disc golf course are some examples of what can be accomplished when volunteers and the City of Trinidad work together with a common goal.

If desired, a more formal arrangement can be provided in the form of an Adopt-A-Park program. This program would allow a community group, service organization, school, business or individual to play an active role in helping to maintain a park.

The agreements could be arranged for a set period of time. Groups or individuals would volunteer time to pick up litter, paint picnic tables, plant and maintain flowers or trees, rake leaves or other items to help maintain the appearance of a park. In exchange the participants could get a sign in the park bearing the name of the group or individual who is maintaining the park, and the City could keep the public informed of the participants activities in the park. A plaque or certificate could also be given upon completion of the participant's commitment. Details concerning the agreement could be worked out regarding who supplies the materials, requirements regarding supervision of participants, and general safety rules regarding participants and facility improvements.

## 4 RECREATION

The creation and implementation of recreation programs are an essential function of the City's Parks and Recreation Department. While parks and facilities are needed for the casual users and families, programs are the magnets to attract users into the parks on a regular basis. Programming is one method to get the best usage from park facilities and to provide the most benefit for the residents of Trinidad.

### 4.1 Existing Recreation

The City of Trinidad has had a recreation department since before 1920, with youth football, basketball and baseball making up the primary sports at that time. While those programs are still around, the range of programs offered has grown to include a wide array of activities from passive uses such as an arts and craft class to active uses such as skateboarding.

In the past the City's Parks and Recreation Department handled the majority of the youth and adult recreation programs. However, some outside organizations run certain programs such as AYSO, which runs the youth soccer.

At the present time, the Trinidad Recreation Department offers the following programs:

Activity / Program	Age / Grade
Baseball	4 – 15 years
Football	K – 6 <sup>th</sup>
Girls Volleyball	4 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>
Basketball	K – 6 <sup>th</sup>
Co-Ed Volleyball	Adult
Women's Volleyball	Adult
Co-Ed Softball	Adult
Men's Softball	Adults
Swimming Pool Lessons	Youth 6 & up
Open Swim	All Ages
Open Gym	All Ages

The City's staff manages the overall planning and coordination of daily recreation operations, programs, equipment, and budget for the entire Parks and Recreation Department. Administrative support is provided through City Administration, Legal, and Finance departments. Present staff responsibilities are extensive and will necessitate evaluation of availability of resources and funding over the next several years to assure adequate coverage.

The recreation programs rely on volunteers who make up a large portion of the coaches for each team, while City personnel supply the play fields, equipment, referees and umpires. The personnel are also on hand for every event, ensuring proper administration of all recreational activities. The City personnel are also in charge of maintenance of the equipment and the play fields.

The Parks and Recreation Department staff coordinate the rental of the Community Center. Some events held include teen night, birthday parties, business and civic meetings, and other group activities. The City's staff works to ensure that adequate supplies are on hand for participants and that the facilities are properly maintained and available.

## 4.2 Recreation Participation

The participation in recreation programs is monitored by the Recreation Department, and is shown in Table 9 below:

*Table 9-Recreation Program Participation*

\*-open swim totals based on 90 days/year, open gym totals based on 200 days/year

Activity / Program	Facility Used	2012 Participation	2013 Participation
Baseball	Southside Park Ballfields and Central Park	170	300
Men's Softball	Southside Park Ballfields	120	140
Football	Central Park	96	250
Girls Volleyball	Community Center	60	100
Basketball	Community Center	340	340
Co-Ed Volleyball	Community Center	50	50
Women's Volleyball	Community Center	70	70
Co-Ed Softball	Community Center	unk	unk1
Swimming Pool Lessons	Swimming Pool	40	40
Open Swim	Swimming Pool	200 per day	250 per day
Open Gym	Community Center	30 per day	40 per day
Youth Soccer (from AYSO)	Los Ninos and others	400	400

Part of the large growth predicted in baseball, football, and basketball shown above is due to the City's Recreation Department taking over the programs that were once part of the YMCA. The other increases are the typical growth in participation seen from year to year.

## 4.3 Future Recreation Participation

In the same manner in which the park facility needs were projected into the near future based upon the population estimates shown in Table 1, we can also do the same with the City's recreation programs. Assuming the same demographics continue in the future, shown below in Table 10 are the 2013 participation numbers expressed as a percent of total population and then projected to years 2020 and 2030.

*Table 10 - Recreation Program Participation Projections*

The figures presented in the following table are meant for a reference only to help illustrate the increased use that the present facilities will sustain, but actual participation should continue to be monitored to show the actual trends of recreation participation.

Activity / Program	2013 Participation	2013 Participation as Percent of Entire 2000 Population	Participation per 2020 Population	Increase from 2013	Participation per 2030 Population	Increase from 2013
Baseball	300	3.3%	360	60	430	130
Men's Softball	140	1.5%	170	35	200	65
Football	250	2.8%	300	50	360	110
Girls Volleyball	100	1.1%	120	20	140	40
Basketball	340	3.7%	410	70	490	150
Co-Ed Volleyball	50	0.6%	60	10	70	20
Women's Volleyball	70	0.8%	80	10	100	30
Aerobics	100+	1.1%	120	20	140	40
Swimming Pool Lessons	40	0.4%	50	10	60	20
Open Swim	250 per day	2.8%	300	50	360	110
Open Gym	40 per day	0.4%	50	10	60	20
Youth Soccer	400	4.4%	480	80	570	170



#### **4.4 Recreation Participation Comparisons**

In the aforementioned DOLA 2003 publication titled "State of Colorado Small Community Park and Recreation Planning Standards", average recreation participants per household were calculated. Initial examination of the present recreation participation in Trinidad appears to fall well below the levels present in other similar sized cities across Colorado. The reasons for the lower participation are something that should be examined closer.

However, if or when the participation numbers were to reach the levels as represented in the DOLA report, the increased demand could put a hardship upon the present facilities and personnel. Again, participation numbers should continue to be monitored so that these trends can be forecast and remedies taken before a situation arises.

#### **4.5 Recreation Recommendations**

Parks and Boulevards department personnel needs should continue to be monitored closely to ensure adequate maintenance coverage. With an anticipated increased participation in recreation programs the demand upon staffing will also increase.

A continued need for volunteers is essential for the recreation programs to maintain the growth predicted for Trinidad. The need for coaches, referees and personnel to head some of the programs will continue to increase, and encouraging volunteerism is a vital way of managing this growth.

A system should be in place to ensure that proper safety equipment and properly trained personnel continue to be present when recreation activities are happening. The present insurer for the City has not made any recommendations in this regard, which speaks well of the City staff in ensuring that accidents to date have been kept to a minimum. As more types of safety equipment such as defibrillators become readily available, the recreation department and the City should be proactive in maintaining a high standard with regard to the safety of all participants in the recreation programs.

Outdoor winter programming is one area that appears to be lacking at present. Although predicting the timing of snowfall and the quantity of snow is impossible, outdoor winter programming is still an option. An ice skating rink would allow many activities to take place including hockey and figure skating. At the present time, many resident utilize city streets or inappropriate areas of existing parks for sledding. A designated area or areas for sledding could also be considered to alleviate this problem. Organizing trips for youths to designated skiing areas could encourage increased participation in winter sports for many who may not have such opportunities.

## **5 IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

The purpose of this section is to summarize the recommendations and to provide potential tools to achieve the vision set forth in this master plan. Specific recommendations for individual parks are covered in Section 6.

### **5.1 Administrative Recommendations**

- The City should work to assure that park and recreation facilities are provided for all ages, abilities and user groups. The City should also work to establish partnerships and agreements with outside agencies, institutions and community groups to facilitate the management and development of recreational facilities as well as recreational programming.
- The City should work to strategically acquire, preserve and otherwise protect its green infrastructure and open space resources to help support the vision outlined in this plan including the development of parks, trails, natural open space, and/or other types of recreation facilities. The recreational development of open space should occur incrementally to meet current demand and avoid over-extending operations and maintenance allowances for parks and recreation facilities.
- The City should look at a variety of options and funding sources, taking full advantage of both traditional and new, creative approaches to financing parks, recreation and natural system facilities for every aspect of the park and recreation process.
- The City should monitor population trends to ensure that park and recreational needs are being met to the standards as set forth in the City of Trinidad Subdivision Regulations. Personnel issues within the entire Parks and Recreations Departments should also be monitored to provide adequate qualified staff to continue to maintain and operate the parks and parks systems at a high standard.
- The City should upgrade pedestrian connectivity in neighborhoods.
- The City should create and regularly update the park facilities inventory to reflect existing conditions.
- The City should establish clear mechanisms for interdepartmental and interagency coordination on park planning and design issues and to ensure consistency with the City's Master Plan.
- The Parks Department should develop and maintain a working relationship with the newly established tree board.



## **5.2 Design and Maintenance Recommendations**

- The City should develop minimum maintenance standards for all parks and recreation facilities in order to establish a baseline for future facility development and to create added safety and security within existing facilities. Policing and enforcement of park regulations should be included in the overall maintenance and operations standards for the city.
- The City should create a unique logo to help distinguish the parks and park facilities within Trinidad. Use of this logo on park benches, tables, lighting and signage will give continuity and style to the park system. The logo used on the City of Trinidad vehicles and stationary is a prime example of this type of branding.
- The City should continue to design and update parks with an eye toward more efficient use of available labor. Alternatives to traditional labor practices should also be explored, including use of volunteers from business and service organizations, use of personnel from the local prison, use of persons required to do community service and outsourcing to contractors for larger projects.
- The City should consider establishing a dog park, which would serve to relieve other parks from the concentration of pets. Pet regulations should be enforced and bags provided for owners to pick up dog waste in parks. In addition, a public education and awareness program should be developed on pet regulations and pet citizenship in conjunction with area dog owners.

## **5.3 Recreation Recommendations**

- Ensure that there is an adequate amount of personnel for all programs.
- Ensure that the types of programs and the amount of programs offered are relevant for the present population, including providing appropriate programs for male and female participants of all ages.
- Continue to promote volunteers in both the coaching and operation of the recreation programs.
- Continue to be proactive in maintaining a high standard with regard to the safety of all participants in the recreation programs.
- Look into increasing the outdoor winter sports programming, including possible creation of sledding and ice-skating facilities.
- Look into increasing other outdoor sports programming such as mountain and urban biking trails, as well as tennis, handball and pickle ball courts.

## 6 EXISTING FACILITIES

### 6.1 Parks Facility Inventory

PARK TYPE/FACILITY NAME	Acreage (Developed / Undeveloped)	Baseball/Softball Field (adult)	Baseball/Softball Field (youth)	Basketball Court (Indoor/Outdoor)	Soccer Field (Regulation / Youth-Practice)	Skate Park	Playground	Miles of Trail	Drinking Fountain	Picnic Table	Picnic Pavilion	Bench	Bike Rack	Restrooms	Trash Receptacle	Water Feature	River Walk Accessible
<b>MINI PARK</b>																	
Victoria Square	0.48														1		
Ninth & Portland	0.47			1			2					2			1		
Miner's Memorial Park	0.13											3			1		
City Hall Park/ C&S Train	0.34									2					4		X
Pine & Willow Street Intersection	0.13																
										4					2		
Welcome Center	0.05									3					4		
Public Library	0.14											1					
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARK</b>																	
Kit Carson Park	5.70						1		1	10				1	14		
Downtown Park	2.00																
Los Ninos	3.43			1	2		2		1			2	1		9		X
<b>COMMUNITY PARK</b>																	
Central Park	14.93	1	2		1		2		2	7		2		2	22	X	X
Southside Park	51.37	2	2			1		1.5	1	2				1	12		
<b>TRAIL AND LINEAR PARK</b>																	
Purgatoire River Walk System	4.85							2.0		3					4		X
Alta Ave. & Colorado Ave. ROW	1.18																
Cimino Plaza	N/A											19			30		x
Santa Fe Trail Sidewalk	0.23							0.5									
<b>SPECIAL USE PARK</b>																	
Municipal Swimming Pool	0.81																
Municipal Golf Course (leased)	84.24																
Monument Lake (leased)	360.00																
North Lake Lands (leased)	840.00																

## 6.2 General Recommendations

1. The City should incorporate ADA accessibility elements into all park facility improvements whenever possible.
2. Since graffiti and other forms of vandalism of park facilities is a common and persistent occurrence, the City should investigate ways of mitigating the problem. Methods of mitigation might include the installation of video surveillance cameras, increased police patrols or both.
3. All unsecured trash receptacles should be replaced with bear-proof trash receptacles in all City parks.
4. Ensure that all playground equipment and other park facilities meet or exceed all public safety standards.
5. Improvements should be made with a view toward minimizing future maintenance to the greatest extent possible.

## 6.3 Mini Parks

### 6.3.1 Victoria Square

Location: West of Alta on between Victoria Lane and Victoria Square

<b>Park Type</b>	Mini Park
<b>Size</b>	0.48 acres
<b>Parking</b>	On-street parking
<b>Play Structure</b>	None
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	1

This is a vacant park, containing a mostly grassed field. It is utilized by the immediate neighborhood.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Provide additional picnic facilities and bear proof trash containers.

### 6.3.2 Ninth and Portland Street Park

Location: Intersection of Ninth St. And Portland St.

<b>Park Type</b>	Mini Park
<b>Size</b>	0.47 acres
<b>Parking</b>	On-street parking
<b>Play Structure</b>	1 newer play structure
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	2 benches
<b>Other Facilities</b>	1 basketball court

This park has recently been upgraded with new playground equipment and new surfacing. The basketball courts are asphalt surfaced. This park is widely used within its neighborhood. Vandalism is an ongoing problem in this park, mainly in the form of graffiti.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Erect a higher fence between the basketball court and the adjacent arroyo that lies to

the west of the park to keep basketballs from going into the ditch.

2. Upgrade the surfaces of the park including the basketball court and the adjoining areas.

### 6.3.3 Miner's Memorial Park

Location: Intersection of Main St. And Convent St.

<b>Park Type</b>	Mini Park
<b>Size</b>	0.13 acres
<b>Parking</b>	Off-street spaces shared with public parking / additional on-street parking
<b>Play Structure</b>	None
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	2 benches
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Memorial, water fountain

This park is located in the downtown area. It contains a memorial dedicated to the memory of the region's coal miners. The park also contains a fountain. Due to its proximity to the downtown area, many people utilize the park. The park is also utilized for downtown festivals.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. The City should work to incorporate the adjacent vacant building to the south into the park as a miner's memorial museum or a similar use.

### 6.3.4 City Hall Park / C&S Train

Location: Animas St. adjacent to City Hall

<b>Park Type</b>	Mini Park
<b>Size</b>	0.34 acres
<b>Off-Street Parking</b>	Off-street spaces shared with City Hall parking with additional on-street parking
<b>Play Structure</b>	None
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	2 tables
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Steam train, first city fire bell

The C&S Train is located next to City Hall. The Colorado and Southern Railroad donated the engine, the caboose and the passenger car to the City of Trinidad. This park also serves an educational park for the children to see what a steam engine looked like.



The park also contains the first City Fire Bell. In the wintertime, area school children help to decorate the tree by adding their own personal decorations to the large pine trees located within the park. The park also contains amenities for dog walking and picnicking.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Monitor the sprinkling system to ensure proper coverage of the lawn surfaces.
2. Ensure the train and the surrounding areas are kept free of debris.

### **6.3.5 Pine and Willow Street Intersection**

Location: Intersection of Pine St. and Willow St.

<b>Park Type</b>	Mini Park
<b>Size</b>	0.13 acres
<b>Parking</b>	On-street parking
<b>Play Structure</b>	None
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	None

This park is located in an island in the street intersection. It contains a xeriscaped garden area. This park is an example of how xeriscape can be used to beautify small areas that are otherwise overlooked, covered in grass or weeds or paved over.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. No specific recommendations at this time.

### **6.3.6 Welcome Center**

Location: Colorado Welcome Center at University St. and Nevada Ave.

<b>Park Type</b>	Mini Park
<b>Size</b>	0.05 acres
<b>Parking</b>	Off-street spaces shared with Welcome Center
<b>Play Structure</b>	None
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	None

This park is located in the parking lot of the Colorado Welcome Center. It is provided for visitors who are visiting the Welcome Center. It consists mainly of 3 picnic tables and some small trees.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. No specific recommendations at this time.

### **6.3.7 Public Library**

Location: Animas St. and Church St., across from City Hall.

<b>Park Type</b>	Mini Park
<b>Size</b>	0.14 acres
<b>Parking</b>	On-street parking
<b>Play Structure</b>	None
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	1 bench

This park is located on the grounds of Carnegie Public Library. It consists of a lawn area and flowerbeds, and is jointly maintained by City Parks Dept. and library staff.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. No specific recommendations at this time.

## 6.3 Neighborhood Parks

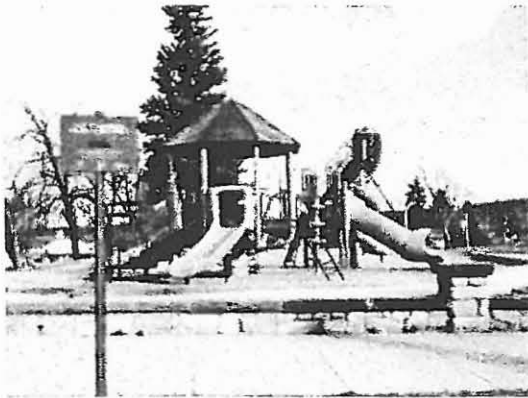
### 6.3.1 Kit Carson Park

Location: Kansas Ave. on south to Topeka St. on North / San Pedro St. on West to Rosita St. on East

<b>Park Type</b>	Neighborhood
<b>Size</b>	5.70 acres
<b>Parking</b>	On-street parking - surrounded on all 4 sides by streets
<b>Play Structure</b>	Newer play structure and surfacing
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	10 tables
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Bandshell, statues



The facility is a developed park consisting of an open lawn, a bandshell and a playground. The park also contains many mature trees, which add to the appeal of the park. It is used for family picnics, concerts and in the winter is used for sledding. The park also has a large statue of Kit Carson. The park contains many picnic tables and a newly built restroom facility. Victorian period lighting was also recently added to the park in keeping with the theme of the park and the downtown area.



#### **Recommendations:**

1. As lighting is added and/or replaced, the Victorian period lighting or similar style of lighting should be added.
2. Continue to monitor the health of the turf to ensure proper treatments are applied for the health of the lawn and to properly minimize the weeds.
3. The historic bandshell is in dire need of repair and should be a high priority.

### 6.3.2 Cimino Park

Location: Convent St. and Elm St.

<b>Park Type</b>	Neighborhood
<b>Size</b>	2.00 acres
<b>Parking</b>	On-street parking
<b>Play Structure</b>	Newer play equipment
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	Tables
<b>Other Facilities</b>	A water play feature

This park is located adjacent to the Riverwalk and the Purgatoire River. The park contains a large lawn, water park, bocce ball courts, a playground facility and other ancillary amenities. This park is quite popular for its size and requires extra maintenance.

#### **Recommendations:**

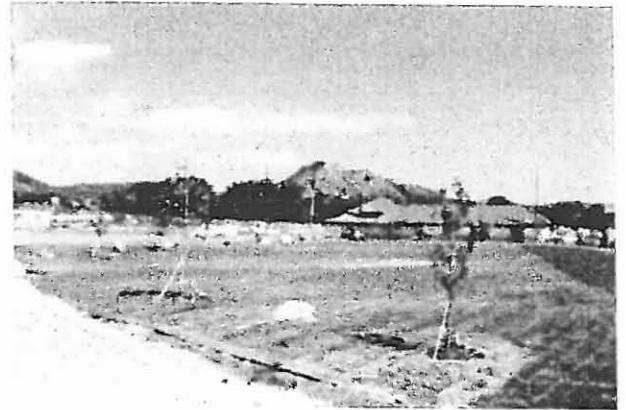
1. No specific recommendations at this time.

### **6.3.3 Los Ninos Soccer Complex**

Location: Chestnut Street and Elm Street

<b>Park Type</b>	Neighborhood
<b>Size</b>	3.43 acres
<b>Parking</b>	On-street parking; also has off-street, but undefined parking
<b>Play Structure</b>	Newer play structure and surfacing
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	None
<b>Other Facilities</b>	1 regulation soccer field, 1 practice field, and 1 basketball court

Los Ninos Soccer Complex was built in 2002 and provided Trinidad with a close to regulation soccer field. A smaller practice / youth soccer field was also designed as part of the complex. It also contains a new playground including climbing facilities, and contains 1 basketball courts. A grass picnic area is also located within this park along with restroom facilities. This park is directly adjacent to the Riverwalk, which adds to the character and accessibility of the park. Although it was not intended to be a dog park, the facility is widely used by dog owners to exercise their dogs.



#### **Recommendations:**

1. A parking area in combination with the River Walk should be considered either on Chestnut Street or adjacent to the Noah's Ark animal shelter.



## 6.4 Community Parks

### 6.4.1 South Side Park

Location: Jefferson Street

<b>Park Type</b>	Community Park
<b>Size</b>	51.37 acres (28 developed)
<b>Parking</b>	Off-street spaces in developed parking lot; also has a large off-street, but undefined gravel parking area near the ballpark.
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	None
<b>Other Facilities</b>	2 lighted baseball/softball fields, 2 lighted youth baseball/women's softball fields, skate park, community center, disc golf course

South Side Park is the primary recreation facility in Trinidad. The whole park is used year around, from the baseball and softball fields in the summer to volleyball in the fall to basketball in the spring. The community center is a recreation facility that is utilized year around. In addition, the Skate Park has been a huge success. The park was named one of the top ten parks in the world according to Tony Hawk, a leader and pioneer in the skating community. This is quite an honor for the City of Trinidad and special thanks should go to those who helped to make the park a reality. It also says a lot about the staff of the Parks and Recreation department who continue to maintain and improve the park.

There are four lighted baseball/softball diamonds in South Side Park that are utilized for youth baseball, women's softball and adult softball. The TSJC women's softball team utilizes one of the fields for all of their practices and home games. The Holy Trinity Academy uses one of the baseball fields for their practices and home games. The ball fields also contain a concession stand and each field is equipped with portable seating areas.

The City's Community Center is also located at South side Park. It is used primarily as a gymnasium, where the adult and youth basketball programs, youth and adult volleyball programs and practice for area schools are held. The Community Center also has a meeting room, a kitchen, and both men and women locker room including shower facilities. It also houses the offices for the Parks and Recreation Department staff.

The Skate Park was a new facility built in 2003. This skate park is used by many people in the Trinidad area and is gaining in popularity. Expansion of the skate park was completed in 2006, with the addition of a restroom facility.



A proposal has been presented to City staff by a local group of BMX riders asking for an area within the city parks to place a bicycle racetrack. The Southside Park area could be a proper location for this sort of facility, as the bicycle and skateboard parks are similar in nature, and with the availability of parking and utilities, this locale seems to be a natural fit.

A 9-hole disc golf course was added in the spring of 2006. This course makes good use of



an otherwise vacant parcel within the Southside Park system.

A new outdoor swimming pool has been completed at the Southside Park, near the Community Center.

Additional facilities that have been suggested for the Southside Park include outdoor basketball courts, walking trails, outdoor sand volleyball courts, and horseshoe pits.

**Recommendations:**

1. Develop an overall plan for the entire Southside Park property and Community Center to ensure for the proper planning and placement of all future additions to the park.
2. Improvements should be made to the swimming pool, including enclosing it for year round access.
3. An additional 9-holes should be added to the disc golf course.
4. A new modern surface for the gymnasium floor in the community center should be considered.
3. Add an emergency phone box near the skate park similar to the one located near the entrance of the community center.
4. Connect the South Side Park with the existing trail system and the Riverwalk per the recommendations of the 2009 Trail Plan.
5. Construct a parking system with delineated parking, proper lighting and proper traffic flow throughout the entire complex to increase parking capacity and reduce the potential hazards associated with an undefined parking system.
6. Continue to place concrete within the ball field dugouts, increase the landscaping around the fields, and add some type of shelter from sun and rain for participants and spectators at the ball fields.
7. Add water fountains near the skate park and near the disc golf course.

### 6.4.2 Central Park

Location: Stonewall Street and San Juan Street

<b>Park Type</b>	Community Park
<b>Size</b>	14.93 acres (4 acres leased to TSJC)
<b>Parking</b>	Off-street parking near baseball field with on-street parking for remainder of park.
<b>Play Structure</b>	1 Newer play structure and surfacing / 1 older structure
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	2picnic tables / 2 benches
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Lighted multi purpose open playing field, 2 acre pond, 1.5 miles of walking trails with fitness stations.

Central park is one of the oldest parks in Trinidad. It has been home to many different activities including ice-skating and it once housed a bandstand that held concerts.

The park contains a baseball field and stadium, which are currently under lease to Trinidad High School and Trinidad State Junior College. The baseball field is also used for other activities.



A 2-acre pond is also located within Central Park. The lake is used only for youth fishing and is stocked by Colorado

Parks & Wildlife. In recent years, there has been some upgrades to the shoreline, creating small fishing areas.

A paved trail system exists within and around the perimeter of the park. The trail consists of 1.5 miles of trails with ten fitness stations and is used year round.

A large open turf area is used for a variety of activities. The field is used by Trinidad High School for girl's varsity and junior varsity soccer, and for football practice in the fall. The park is used for the City youth football program and for the youth baseball and tee-ball programs. The area is also used by the community for events such the ACS Relay for Life program.

A new playground facility exists in the northeast corner of the park, while an older facility is located in the southwest corner near the lake. There are also many mature trees around the perimeter of the park.

**Recommendations:**

1. Continue to monitor the health of the turf to ensure proper treatments are applied for the health of the lawn and to properly minimize the weeds.
2. Replace existing bathrooms proximate to the playground equipment
3. Monitor the mosquito population that comes from the lake to keep the numbers to a minimum.

### **6.4.3 Simpson's Rest**

Location: Northwest end of North Ave., overlooking Trinidad

<b>Park Type</b>	Community Park
<b>Size</b>	Undetermined
<b>Parking</b>	Undetermined amount

This is where the large lighted "TRINIDAD" sign is located. It is a popular overlook for locals and visitors alike. The facility is underutilized, in a state of disrepair and needs to be reclaimed by the City.

**Recommendations:**

1. Develop a plan for the restoration of the park.
2. Install surveillance cameras on the "Trinidad" sign to deter graffiti and other forms of vandalism.
3. Remove all graffiti from the rocks that border the site as well as the main monument.
4. Restore the monument and associated informational signage.
5. Enhance the park with designated parking, picnic tables, restroom facilities and educational signage.
6. Investigate the potential for creating a rock-climbing park on Simpson's Rest.
7. Ensure that the County grades the access road regularly. The City might also investigate the feasibility of improving and taking ownership of the road.

### **6.4.4 Boulevard Addition Nature Park**

Location: Adjacent to Boulevard Street and Northwest of the River Walk

<b>Park Type</b>	Community Park
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<b>Size</b>	Approximately 90 Acres
<b>Parking</b>	Currently undetermined

The Boulevard Addition Nature Park was recently acquired by the City as its first nature park. Since the park has been acquired, the City has secured funding for the implementation of Section One of the Old Sopris Trail as outlined in the Old Sopris Trail Master Plan. Section One deals primarily with the development of the Boulevard Addition and includes the addition of a parking facility and trailhead with restrooms and information kiosks along Boulevard Street, connector sidewalks between the Boulevard Addition and Central Park, wayfinding signage, a pedestrian bridge connection to the existing River Walk, a low water crossing, scenic overlooks, wildlife blinds and approximately one mile of trail. The Old Sopris Trail will eventually extend the existing River Walk by an additional four miles along the Purgatoire River to the southern entrance to Trinidad Lake State Park.

**Recommendations:**

1. Since the Boulevard Addition is intended to be a nature park, it should be left in a natural state to the greatest degree possible.
2. Continue stream restoration work including enhancing the existing vegetation and removal of invasive species along the river corridor.
3. Continue the trout habitat improvement project adjacent to the Boulevard Addition.
4. The City should take advantage of GOCO's Paths to Parks grant program and other related initiatives to acquire the additional land necessary along the river corridor adjacent to the Boulevard Addition to complete the Old Sopris Trail.

## 6.5 Trail and Linear Parks

### 6.5.1 Purgatoire River Walk

Location: Along Purgatoire River from I-25 north to Kit Carson Bypass

<b>Park Type</b>	Trail
<b>Size</b>	4.85 acres
<b>Parking</b>	Small undefined lot at Linden Trail head
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	3 Tables
<b>Other Facilities</b>	River overlooks

The Purgatoire River Walk is a trail system along the Purgatoire River, running a length of 2 miles from the Interstate 25 overpass through the center of Trinidad to the Kit Carson Bypass. The trail consists of a mix of concrete and asphalt surfaces. Both bikes and pedestrians use the trail. It has many existing amenities including picnic tables and many informational monuments, which highlight some of the history of Trinidad. The trail is in a continuing state of extension and revision, and has become a central feature in downtown Trinidad.



#### **Recommendations:**

1. Continue to extend the existing trail and add other trails leading to other park facilities, including the execution of the Old Sopris Trail Master Plan and the construction of stairs from Commercial Street to the River Walk from the Commercial Street Bridge.
2. Add park benches, trash cans, drinking fountains and improvements to the existing landscaping including adding planters and trees.
3. Continue stream restoration work including enhancing the existing vegetation and removal of invasive species along the river corridor.
4. The northerly end of the trail has been used by many motorized vehicles including motorcycles and ATVs. Additional patrolling of this area is suggested to prevent this from becoming more of a hazard to the pedestrians along the trail.
5. The large parking area adjacent to the trail proximate to Linden Avenue should be developed as a dog park facility with a defined parking area for both the dog park and River Walk.

### 6.5.2 Colorado and Alta Ave. Right of Way

Location: Within the median Colorado Avenue and Alta Avenue

<b>Park Type</b>	Trail
<b>Size</b>	1.18 acres
<b>Parking</b>	On-street parking

This open space is located in the median of Colorado Avenue and Alta Avenue. This area is a lawn surface that is contained within curb islands. Present plans for improvements include replacing the existing lawn by lowering the turf to a level below the top of the

curb, replacement of portions of the curb that are damaged, and replacing and updating the watering system to maximize water on the turf surface while reducing maintenance.

**Recommendations:**

1. No specific recommendations at this time.

### **6.5.3 Downtown Plaza**

Location: Along Main and Commercial Street

<b>Park Type</b>	Trail
<b>Size</b>	Undetermined area
<b>Parking</b>	On-street parking
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Metal information signs, planters, and trees

The Parks department maintains trees and planters along along Main and Commercial Streets. The “park” contains 80 trees, 65 flower planters, and 19 benches that help to create a park-like feel to the downtown streetscape. The City has secured grant funding for the complete restoration of Commercial Street and extensive upgrades to Main Street including the replacement of all utilities, the resetting of the historic bricks, the creation of a pocket park at Plum and Commercial Streets, the addition of public street art, bringing all intersections and sidewalks into compliance with ADA standards, the replacement of street trees and many other upgrades.

**Recommendations:**

1. Continue to work with business owners to assist in the maintenance and upkeep of the planters and trees.
2. Add bicycle lanes connecting the Downtown Plaza to the City boundary along Highway 12, Highway 160 and the Santa Fe Trail.

### **6.5.4 Santa Fe Trail Sidewalk**

Location: Santa Fe Trail from Main Street south to Adams St.

<b>Park Type</b>	Trail
<b>Size</b>	0.23 acres
<b>Parking</b>	None

This is a sidewalk that is maintained in the summer and winter by City Parks Department personnel. The walk is approximately 5 feet wide, and runs along both sides of Santa Fe Trail from the intersection of Adams Street to the intersection with Main Street.

**Recommendations:**

1. Add bicycle lanes along the Santa Fe Trail between the Downtown Plaza and the municipal boundary.

## 6.6 Special Use Parks

### 6.6.1 Monument Lake

Location: 36 miles west of Trinidad along Highway 12

<b>Park Type</b>	Special Use
<b>Size</b>	360 acres
<b>Parking</b>	Undetermined
<b>Camping Facilities</b>	50+ tent sites, 45 camper sites, motel rooms, 13 cabins
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Fishing, horseback riding

This recreational facility is located west of the City of Trinidad and is currently being operated pursuant to a lease agreement with a private vendor. It has a number of amenities including fishing, lodging, and camping areas.

The park once contained a zoo, a fish hatchery and a vacation resort. Presently there is a motel, cabins, restaurant and lounge. Rental boats are available and a small store for fishing and camping supplies is located along the lake.



#### **Recommendations:**

1. Develop permanent designated campsites and permanent fire rings to establish clear boundaries of tent sites. Also establish clearly defined roadways and limit vehicle traffic to said roadways and parking areas. This would increase safety by not having tents and cars parked in areas that might hinder travel throughout the park. This would also help with erosion due to decreased turf areas caused by tents and vehicle traffic.
2. The trees within the park especially near the camping areas consist of large trees that add to the character of the park. An inventory of the trees together with a plan for replacement of these trees should be developed as part of the long-term planning for the park.
3. Upgrade the roads and fences to a high standard for both ease of maintenance and to help delineate boundaries of both the roads and the property.
4. Implement a higher standard for the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities located within the park.
5. Improve and update the signage throughout the park.
6. Restore the fish hatchery.

### 6.6.2 The Municipal Golf Course

Location: Along Nolan Drive adjacent to I-25

<b>Park Type</b>	Special Use
<b>Size</b>	84.24 acres
<b>Parking</b>	Off-street parking, golf cart sheds.

The Municipal Golf Course is a nine-hole golf course built in 1914. The course is built into the natural terrain, offering many challenges and spectacular views of the Sangre De Cristo Mountains. With 18 different tee boxes, the course is a par 72, with a length of 6,160 yards.



Trinidad Municipal Golf Course is considered one of the top nine-hole courses in Colorado, and *Avid Golfer* magazine ranks it as one of the "ten hidden gems in the country". The course offers a stocked pro shop, a self-serve driving range, practice green, and cart and club rentals. The grounds also contain on-site cart storage and a groundskeeper's workshop.

The golf course is open to the public with memberships available. The Trinidad-Las Animas County Golf Association, consisting of 9 board members, leases the course from the City of Trinidad and is in charge of the management of the course.

**Recommendations:**

1. The City Tree Board should create a plan for the removal and replacement of dead trees.
2. With the recent drought and an added emphasis being placed upon the available water resources, this is an area where a pattern can be set for the entire park system. By continuing to work toward being as resourceful as possible with available water, the Golf Course can be an example of efficient water use and conservancy for other businesses and citizens.
3. Continue to improve the landscape adjacent to the course.
4. The Golf Course should continue to strive to be as fiscally independent from the City as possible.
5. Restore the tennis courts at the facility.
6. Investigate the possible addition of a miniature golf course facility on the property.



## **6.7 Parks by Outside Agencies**

### **6.7.1 Holy Trinity Catholic School**

Location: Church Street and Animas Street.

<b>Park Type</b>	Community
<b>Size</b>	2.0 acres +/-
<b>Parking</b>	Off street parking

This park is located within the campus of the Holy Trinity Catholic School. The facilities include a full size football field and a gymnasium. The football field is utilized for AYSO soccer, and is also used for some community events such as Santa Fe Trail Days.

The gymnasium is used by the Trinidad Recreation Department for youth league basketball practice and games.

### **6.7.2 TSJC Scott Gymnasium**

Location: Near Pine Street on TSJC campus

<b>Park Type</b>	Special Use
<b>Parking</b>	Off street parking
<b>Number of Courts</b>	1 full size

The gymnasium is used by the Trinidad Recreation Department for youth league basketball practice and games.

### **6.7.3 Las Animas County Fairgrounds**

Location: North Linden Ave.

<b>Park Type</b>	Community
<b>Size</b>	undetermined
<b>Parking</b>	Off street parking
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	Picnic Pavilion

The Las Animas County Fairgrounds, located in north Trinidad off North Linden Street, were constructed in the early 1900s. Existing facilities include a rodeo arena, an outdoor arena, a racetrack, a 4-H barn, horse stalls, grandstand seating, a park area, office space, maintenance buildings, and parking. The fairgrounds are currently used for the annual county fair, which is held every summer and features livestock shows. The fairgrounds are also used for rodeos, horse shows, and horse races at other times of the year.

### **6.7.4 Las Animas County Courthouse South Lawn**

Location: Along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street between Chestnut and Maple

<b>Park Type</b>	Mini-Park
<b>Size</b>	1.7 acres
<b>Parking</b>	On street parking

This park is located directly south of the Las Animas County Courthouse. It contains a large lawn area with many mature trees.

### **6.7.5 TSJC Tennis Courts**

Location: Along 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Near Pine Street

<b>Park Type</b>	Special Use
<b>Size</b>	1.4 acres
<b>Parking</b>	On street parking
<b>Number of Courts</b>	2 full size tennis courts

This park is owned and maintained by Trinidad State Junior College. This is the only functional tennis facility in Trinidad at this time.

### **6.7.6 TSJC Xeriscape Park**

Location: Pine Street and State Street

<b>Park Type</b>	Mini Park
<b>Size</b>	0.70 acres
<b>Parking</b>	On street parking

This park is a xeriscape park that is owned and maintained by Trinidad State Junior College. This park was built in 2004, highlighting an example of a flowering garden using plants that are suited for Trinidad's environment. It is also a good example of what can be done with a former building site, turning an empty lot into something beneficial to the community.

### **6.7.7 TSJC Sander's Field**

Location: Broom Street and State Street

<b>Park Type</b>	Mini Park
<b>Size</b>	1.6 acres
<b>Parking</b>	20+/- Off street parking / On street parking
<b>Park Facilities</b>	1 youth/practice football/soccer fields

This park consists of 1 open field, separated from Centennial field by State Street. This park is used mainly for youth football and soccer.

### **6.7.8 Trinidad School District Centennial Field**


Location: Broom Street and State Street

<b>Park Type</b>	Mini Park
<b>Size</b>	1.6 acres
<b>Parking</b>	20+/- Off street parking / On street parking
<b>Park Facilities</b>	1 youth/practice football/soccer fields

This park consists of an open field, separated from Sander's field by State Street. This park is used mainly for youth football and soccer.

This plan approved and adopted by the City Council of the City of Trinidad, Colorado on this 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of March, 2015.

  
Mayor, Joseph Reorda

  
City Clerk, Audra Garret